

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 188245  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW

APPROVED BY NEA:HHSAUDERS

S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----056834 260151Z /75

O 260128Z JUL 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 188245

EXDIS FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, LE, SY

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONS TO SYRIANS ON BEIRUT FIGHTING

REF: STATE 187079

1. WE WERE JUST ON THE TELEPHONE WITH PARKER IN BEIRUT AT 2100 BEIRUT TIME JULY 25. HEAVY MORTAR BOMBARDMENT OF HADATH AREA HAS BEGUN AGAIN. SHELLS ARE FALLING IN SURROUNDING AREAS AS WELL, INCLUDING EXTREMELY CLOSE TO EMBASSY RESIDENCE IN YARZE. PARKER SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO LOCAL INHABITANTS, AS MANY AS TWO-THIRDS OF THE HADATH AREA'S RESIDENTS HAVE FLED. SPANISH EMBASSY TOOK SIX SHELLS, AND AT LEAST ONE HOSPITAL WAS HIT BADLY.

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SYRIAN SHELLING DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE DOING DAMAGE TO THE PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, BUT IT IS BECOMING A CATASTROPHE FOR OTHER INHABITANTS. EARLIER TODAY, ACCORDING TO PARKER, HADATH AREA WAS FILLED WITH ARMED MEN AND THE SITUATION WAS RIPE FOR PROVOCATIONS AND INCIDENTS.

2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU SHOULD URGENTLY GET IN

TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE SYRIAN OFFICIAL TO REGISTER DEEP U.S. CONCERN OVER THIS CONTINUED FIGHTING. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT YOU ARE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO REQUEST THAT THE SYRIANS, ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS ALONE, CEASE THEIR BOMBARDMENT OF

THE BEIRUT AREA. YOU SHOULD SAY TO THE SYRIANS THAT, WHATEVER THE PROVOCATIONS THEY HAVE HAD TO ENDURE, THEIR RESPONSE IS LIKELY TO BE SEEN AS DISPROPORTIONATE. THEY THUS WILL RISK BEING CRITICIZED BY INTERNATIONAL OPINION IN A WAY THAT WILL TEND TO UNDO MUCH OF WHAT SYRIA HAS BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS IN ENDING THE CIVIL CONFLICT, AND IN PRESERVING SECURITY AND LAW AND ORDER.

3. DRAWING ON OTHER POINTS REFTEL, YOU COULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT SYRIA INTENDS TO ACHIEVE IN THESE HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS AND WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION. AT YOUR DISCRETION YOU MIGHT EXPAND ON YOUR OWN RECENT SPECULATION THAT SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION ON THIS SITUATION IS UNCOORDINATED. YOU SHOULD GIVE AS OUR OWN CONCLUSION THAT THE CHRISTIAN CIVILIAN INHABITANTS OF THESE BOMBARDED AREAS WILL NOT TURN AGAINST THE MILITIAMEN WHO MAY HAVE BEEN ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PLIGHT, BUT WILL INSTEAD DIRECT THEIR ANGER AT THE SYRIANS. MAKE CLEAR -- AS IN REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS -- THAT THE U.S. WANTS TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE SYRIANS ON WAYS TO

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FIND A RESOLUTION TO THIS CURRENT PROBLEM.

4. SYRIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON IS ON VACATION IN SYRIA. WE ARE CALLING IN SYRIAN CHARGE, AND WE ARE CONSIDERING TALKING TO SYRIAN UN AMBASSADOR SHOIFI. WE PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO REMOBILIZE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE STEPS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN IF FIGHTING CONTINUES.

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PAGE 01 STATE 188245  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:DSCOTT

-----080311 270102Z /61

O 262043Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE 8927

S E C R E T STATE 188245

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 188245 ACTION DAMASCUS INFO BEIRUT  
TEL AVIV JERUSALEM AMMAN CAIRO JUL 8.

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 188245

EXDIS FOR CHARGE

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** REPRESENTATIONS TO SYRIANS ON BEIRUT FIGHTING  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PINS, PINT, LE, SY  
**To:** DAMASCUS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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